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Remarks

The present response is to the Office Action mailed in the above-referenced case on August 04, 2004. Claims 1-20 are presented for examination. The Examiner has objected to the drawings and the disclosure, and has objected to several of the claims due to informalities. Claims 2-4, 8-10, 12-14 and 18-20 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph as being indefinite. Claims 1-3, 5, 8, 11-13 and 18 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Parks (4,027,892), hereinafter Parks. Claims 1 and 11 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Mundt (6,007,282), hereinafter Mundt. Claims 1, 5, 8, 11, 15 and 18 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Bequette et al. (6,503,036), hereinafter Bequette. Claims 1, 5, 8-9, 11, 15 and 18-19 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Kluetsch (3,767,253), hereinafter Kluetsch. Claims 1-4 and 11-14 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Bourgault et al. (6,575,679), hereinafter Bourgault, in view of Mundt. Claims 6-7 and 16-17 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but are indicated by the Examiner as reciting allowable subject matter. The Examiner has indicated that claims 10 and 20 would be allowable if rewritten to overcome the rejection under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph.

Applicant has carefully studied the prior art presented by the Examiner, and the Examiner's objections, rejections and statements in the instant Office Action.

In response to the Examiner's objection to the drawings, applicant cancels claims 4 and 14. Responding to the Examiner's objection to the specification, and claim objections, applicant amends the specification and affected claims where necessary to overcome the objections, and responding to the Examiner's 112 rejection, applicant amends the language of the claims to recite the correct antecedent basis where required.

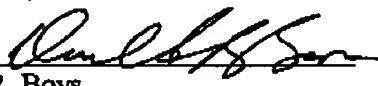
Finally, responding to all of the merit rejections set forth by the Examiner in the instant Office Action, applicant amends independent claims 1 and 11 to recite the patentable limitations of claims 6 and 16 respectively. Claims 6 and 16 are accordingly canceled, and depending claims 7 and 17 are amended to correct the dependencies.

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Applicant's independent claims 1 and 11, as amended to include subject matter indicated by the Examiner as allowable, are now patentable over the prior art presented. Depending claims 2-3, 5, 7-10, 12-13, 15 and 17-20 are now patentable on their own merits in their original form, or as amended herein, or at least as depended from a patentable claim.

It is therefore respectfully requested that this application be reconsidered, the claims be allowed, and that this case be passed quickly to issue. If there are any time extensions needed beyond any extension specifically requested with this amendment, such extension of time is hereby requested. If there are any fees due beyond any fees paid with this amendment, authorization is given to deduct such fees from deposit account 50-0534.

Respectfully Submitted,
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